



NO. 87 JULY
30453

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CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

HURRY, CHALLENGERS!
ENTER THE TIME-SPHERE!
YESTERDAY'S THE ONLY
PLACE YOU CAN SURVIVE.

ASAVIUK
GIORDANO



IS THIS THE DEATH-CHEATER'S
LAST CHALLENGE?

READ 12 MILLION YEARS TO TWILIGHT!

SURVIVING A CATACLYSMIC AIRCRAFT CRASH THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN FATAL--FOUR ADVENTURERS NOW CONSIDER THEMSELVES LIVING ON BORROWED TIME--FOUR MEN, JOINED BY A WOMAN IN LOVE WITH DANGER, NOW FACE ANY RISK--ANY PERIL--ANY FOE! TOGETHER THEY ARE--

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

Guest Starring
DEADMAN and
SWAMP THING

THE PLACE: A TENEMENT HALL IN THE HELL-HOLE SLUM KNOWN AS BLACK ALLEY--A CURSED SPOT, NOT ON ANY MAP DRAWN OF THE WORLD TODAY, FOR IT BELONGS TO THE BLEAK, FAR-DISTANT FUTURE OF TWELVE MILLION A.D....

IT IS TO THIS PLACE AND TIME THAT THE INVISIBLE SPECTRE DEADMAN CAME MOMENTS AGO, TO SEEK OUT THE ONE MAN ABLE TO SAVE THE TWENTIETH CENTURY FROM A SCOURGE OF MUTANT MONSTERS...

YOU CAN RELAX NOW, DEADMAN-- MY REBELS HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED TO PREPARE FOR TONIGHT WHEN WE SHALL FREE YOUR FRIENDS! SO BE AT PEACE--

--YOU HAVE FOUND LUCAS LAWSPEAKER!

WRONG, JOCKO!

WHEN A MORTAL STARTS READING MY MIND-- ESPECIALLY WHEN I'M INSIDE A GUY'S BODY-- IT'S WORRYING TIME!

TWELVE MILLION YEARS TO TWILIGHT

CARLA & GERRY CONWAY
CO-SCRIPTERS
KEITH GIFFEN
PENCILLER

JOHN CELARDO--INKER
GEN ODA--LETTERER
JERRY SERPE--COLORS
JACK C. HARRIS--EDITOR

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BUT RIGHT NOW, DEADMAN HAS MORE URGENT WORRIES. PROBLEMS THAT BEGAN WHEN GIANT BOXES APPEARED ON EARTH BEARING THE MISTAKES FROM A GENETIC BREEDER-LAB OF THE FUTURE--

--MUTANT CREATURES THAT BATTLED THE CHALLENGERS, SWAMP THING AND DEADMAN FOR A FOOTHOLD IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY!

THE FIRST MUTANTS WERE DEFEATED-- BUT MORE APPEARED EVERY HOUR-- MAKING IT VITAL THAT THREE CHALLENGERS AND SWAMP THING TRAVEL THROUGH TIME TO TWELVE MILLION A.D., ACCOMPANIED BY AN UNDETECTED STOW-AWAY-- DEADMAN!

USING EQUIPMENT DESIGNED BY THE TIME MASTER, THEY ARRIVED IN THE FUTURE WHERE ALL BUT DEADMAN WERE CAPTURED BY--

--THE TIME SPHERE'S ONCE-BRILLIANT INVENTOR RIP HUNTER--

--TRANSFORMED INTO A MIND-SLAVE BY THE AWESOME SCIENCE OF THE SUNSET LORDS AND THEIR GENETIC GIANT, THE PERSUADER!

AND AS DEADMAN RECALLS WHAT HAS HAPPENED...

* AN INSTANT RECAP OF ISSUES 85-86. --JCH.

...ANOTHER READS HIS MIND AND UNDERSTANDS...

DO NOT FEAR MY MUTANT POWERS, DEADMAN. THEY WILL BE NEEDED TONIGHT WHEN WE BATTLE THE SUNSET LORDS!

TONIGHT?

GOTTA GET WORD TO THE CHALLENGERS!

YES, GO WARN YOUR FRIENDS, DEADMAN. AND--

WHAT HAPPENED?!

I'LL NEVER GET USED TO A MORTAL READING MY MIND! UH-UHH... NO WAY!

--GODSPEED!

MEANWHILE, IN THE PALACE OF THE
SUNSET LORDS, CHALLENGERS
ACE, MORGAN, JUNE ROBBINS,
ROCKY DAVIS AND THEIR
COLLEAGUE, SWAMP THING, ARE
ALL UNAWARE OF THEIR INVISIBLE
ALLY! THEY BELIEVE THEY ARE
ALONE--AND ARE PLANNING
ACCORDINGLY...

CHAPTER
1

ASSAULT ON SUNSET

I DON'T LIKE
WHAT THAT CREEP
SAID! YOU GOT
ANY IDEAS HOW
TO GET OUT
OF HERE,
ACE?

SORRY,
JUNE. CAN'T
THINK OF A
THING.
DR. HOLLAND?*

FOOLS--YOU'VE DARED
TO INTERFERE WITH OUR
MASTER PLAN! BUT ONCE
YOUR MINDS HAVE BEEN
RE-PROGRAMMED BY
THE PERSUADER--

--YOU'LL BE LOYAL
TO US FOREVER!
TAKE THEM AWAY!

FIRST...WE...BREAK...
SHACKLES... THEN...
WE... FIGHT!

THAT'S EASIER
SAID THAN DONE,
BIG FELLA...
EXCEPT MAYBE
FOR YOU!

*THE CHALLENGERS
DISCOVERED THAT
SWAMP THING WAS
DR. ALEC HOLLAND
IN ISN #84.
--JCH

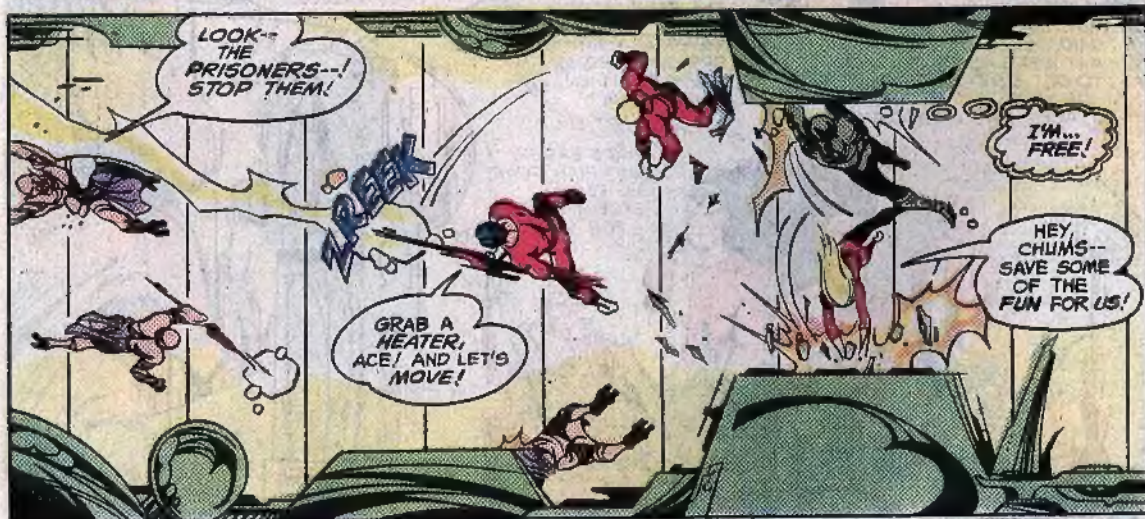
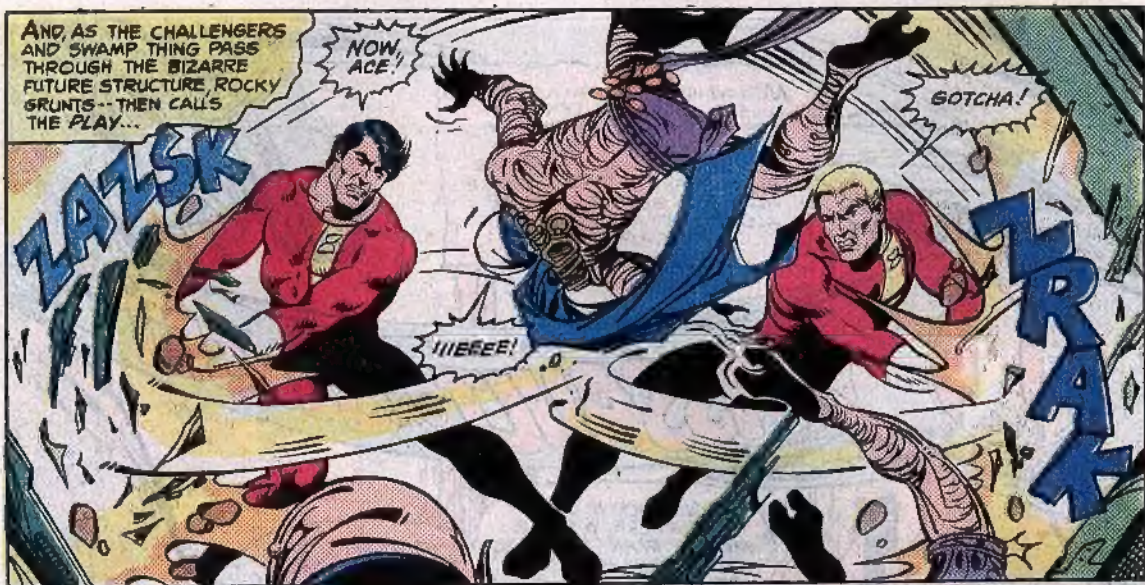
BUT MAYBE
THERE'S A
CHANCE IF--

ACE, GLOM
THOSE ARCHES
AHEAD OF US!

WHAT
ABOUT
THEM,
ROCKY?

JUST MAYBE WE CAN MANGLE THESE
MANACLES ON THEM... AND WITH LUCK--

GOOD IDEA--! YOU KNOW, YOU'RE
GETTING SMART IN YOUR OLD AGE,
PAL!



THE CHILLING, UNFAMILIAR SOUNDS OF FUTURE-WEAPONS ENGAGED IN BATTLE ECHO THROUGH THE PALACE OF THE SUNSET LORDS, ACCOMPANIED BY THE SCREAMS OF MUTANTS--WOUNDED AND DYING--UNTIL...

THIS ZAPPER'S LOSING POWER!

SO'S MINE!

HOLY HANNAH! WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE!

OTHER EARS HEAR ACE'S WORDS, AND A HALF-HUMAN HAND TOUCHES HIS SHOULDER, FIRMLY TURNING THE CHALLENGER LEADER AWAY FROM THE BATTLE....

WHO?!

A VOICE RARELY HEARD SPEAKS WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY...

YOU... MUST... GO!... I'LL... STAY!

IN HALTING TONES SWAMP THING REMINDS ACE THAT THERE ARE ERRANDS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THIS BATTLE...

AND SO, MOMENTS LATER, AS THE CHALLENGERS CHARGE OFF TO LOCATE AND DESTROY THE SUNSET LORD'S TIME MACHINE--THEY LEAVE BEHIND THE NOBLE MUCK-ENCRUSTED MOCKERY OF A MAN TO FIGHT ON--ALONE...

I MUST GIVE THE CHALLENGERS... TIME TO ESCAPE! EVEN IF... IT MEANS MY LIFE!

I HATE LEAVING HOLLAND LIKE THIS! BUT HE'S RIGHT--IF WE DON'T DESTROY THE SUNSET LORD'S TIME MACHINE--FAST!

--IT WON'T MATTER HOW MANY BATTLES WE WIN--WE WON'T HAVE A WORLD TO GO BACK TO!

ARRRH

YOU FELLAS... MAY LOOK MEAN--

--BUT I AM MEAN!

I'VE GOT... A LOT OF PAIN... IN MY HEART... AND I'M GOING TO SHARE SOME OF IT...

RIGHT... NOW!

ELSEWHERE, IN OUR TIME: RED RYAN SPEEDS A SPECIAL JET-HELICOPTER TO CHALLENGER MOUNTAIN, UNAWARE OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HIS FRIENDS...

LOSING MY TEMPER AND QUITTING THE CHALLENGERS WAS ABOUT THE DUMBEST STUNT I'VE EVER PULLED.

IT TOOK ME SOME HEAVY THINKING TO REALIZE THAT WHEN A GUY WALKS OUT ON HIS BUDDIES -- NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON -- THE FAULT'S NOT THEIRS -- IT'S HIS!

*R.R. QUIT THE CHALLENGERS IN 1SH #85. -- JCH!

MEANWHILE: INSIDE CHALLENGER MOUNTAIN -- A SAVAGE BATTLE RAGES BETWEEN MUTANT CREATURES FROM TWELVE MILLION A.D. AND THE STILL-WEAKENED SCIENTIST, CHALLENGER PROF. HALEY...

THIS EXPERIMENTAL 'MOTORIZED AND PRESSURIZED SPACE SUIT' GIVING ME ENOUGH ARTIFICIAL STRENGTH TO FIGHT THESE TIME-MONSTERS--

--BUT MY OXYGEN'S ALMOST GONE! AND WHEN IT GOES-- SO DO I!

*PROF WAS CURED OF A NEAR-FATAL DISEASE BY DEADMAN IN #85. -- JCH.

ARRIVING ON CHALLENGER MOUNTAIN'S LANDING PAD, RED HEARS A SOUND THAT TURNS HIS HOPES OF A HAPPY REUNION INTO FEARS THAT HE'S ARRIVED TOO LATE...

THE INTRUDER ALARM!

SOMEONE'S BROKEN INTO CHALLENGER MOUNTAIN!

IT'S NOT A "SOMEONE" RED--IT'S A "SOMETHING" AND PROF WOULD GLADLY EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE-- IF HE HAD THE TIME...

BWOK

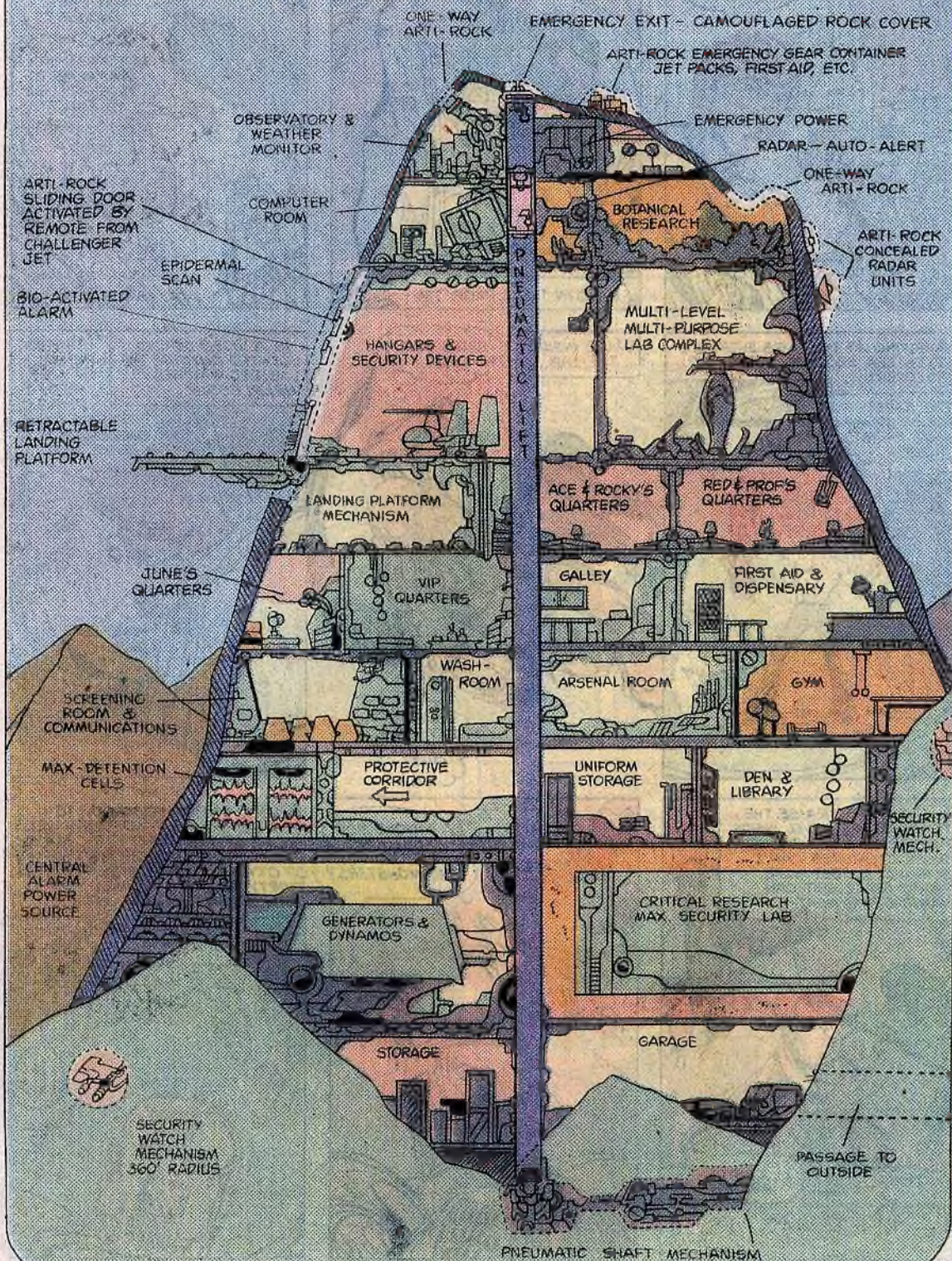
INSIDE THE HANGAR, RED DOES A VISUAL SCAN OF CHALLENGER MOUNTAIN...

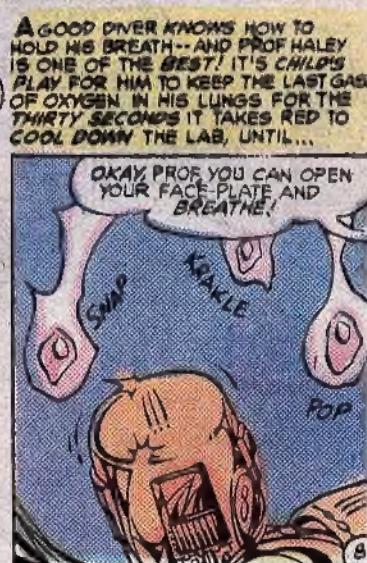
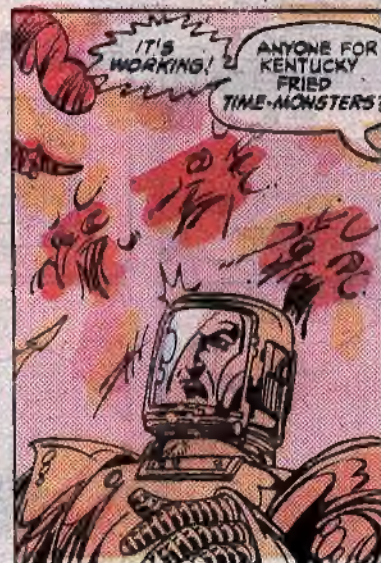
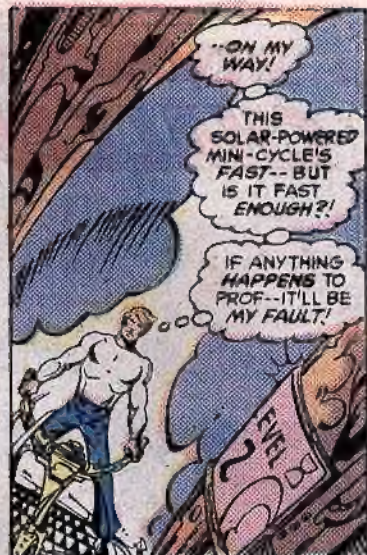
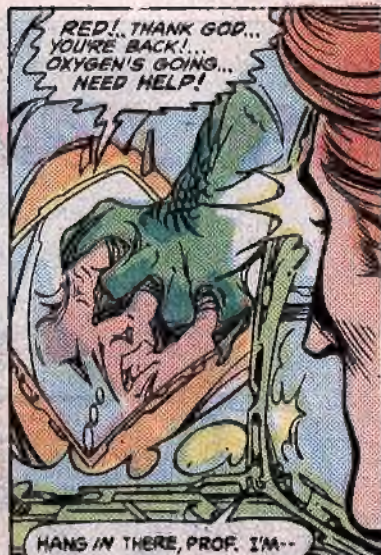
THIS REMOTE VIDEO WILL TELL ME WHAT AND WHERE THE TROUBLE IS.

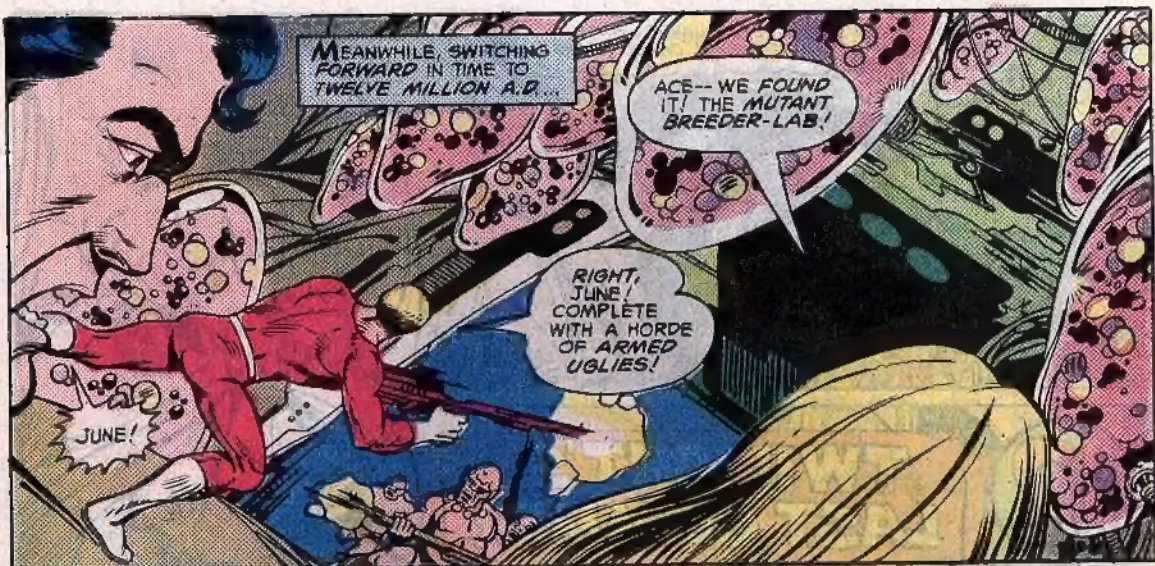
I CAN SEE EVERY ROOM IN THE MOUNTAIN ON THIS GIZMO.

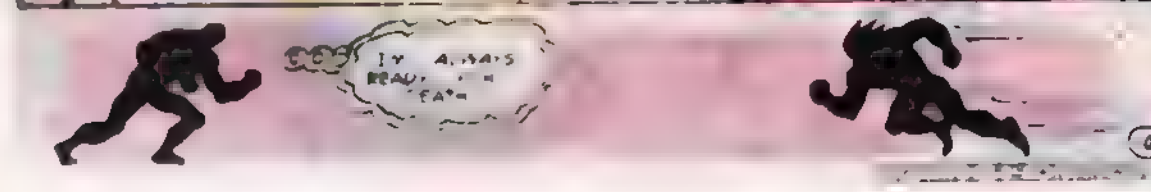
AND SO CAN YOU, GOODFOLK. IF YOU GLOM YOUR EYES TO THE NEXT PAGE...

WELCOME TO CHALLENGER MOUNTAIN

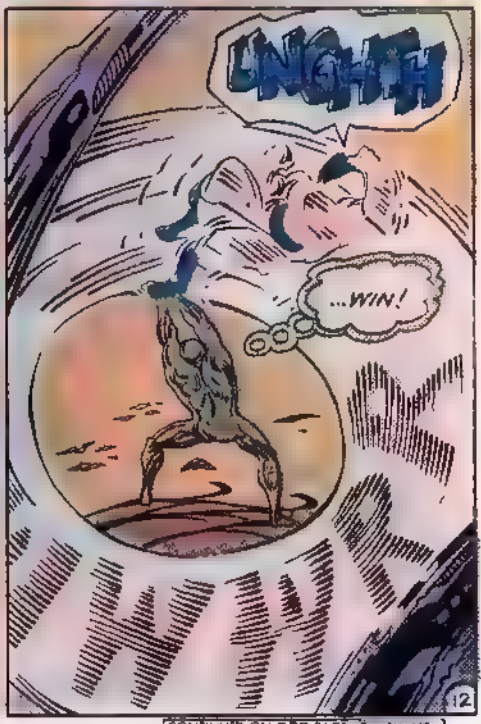




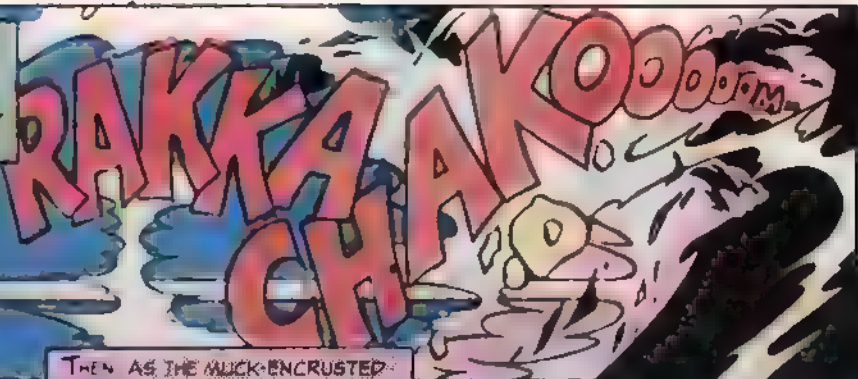








AN INSTANT LATER A MANT MASS ROCKETS THROUGH THE AIR IN A COLLISION COURSE WITH A TURRET IN THE SUNSET LORD'S PALACE



THEN AS THE MUCK-ENCRUSTED HERO TURNS AND SHAMBLES AWAY, A SHRILL VOICE--SHARPENED ON THE WHEEL OF MADNESS--SHOUTS OF A NEW DANGER.

YOUR VICTORY IS MEANINGLESS, OUTLANDER

FOR NO LIVING BEING CAN WITHSTAND A NOVA BLAST FROM MY SUN-STAFF!

SUDDENLY WITHOUT WARNING



THE SUN STAFF IT'S EXPLODING IN HIS HAND!

GREAT SUNSPOTS! NO!

A WHITE LIGHT HURLS FORTH THE HEAT AND ENERGY OF A THOUSAND SUNS BEFORE DISSOLVING INTO NOTHING AND REVEALING

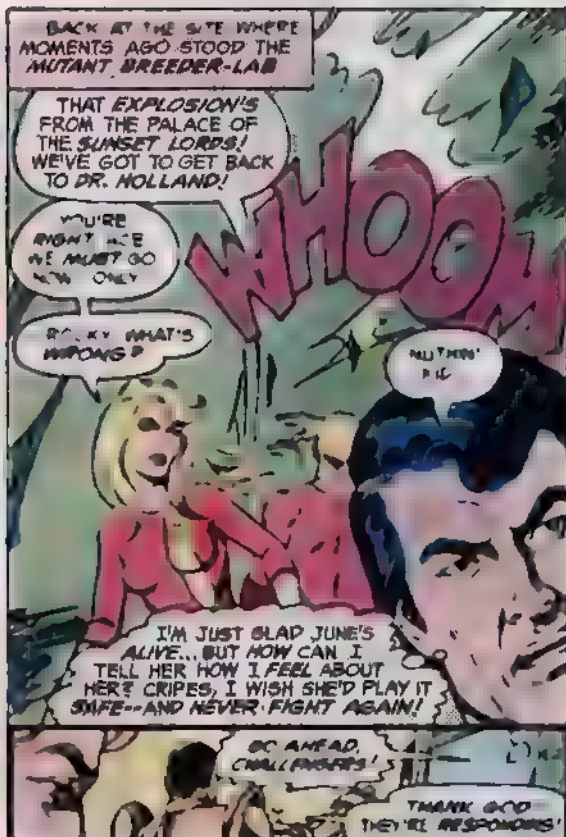
THE ATTACKING FIGURES OF LUCAS LAWSPAKER AND HIS SKY-RIDERS!

MASTERS OF MISERY, YOUR REIGN OF BLOOD IS OVER!

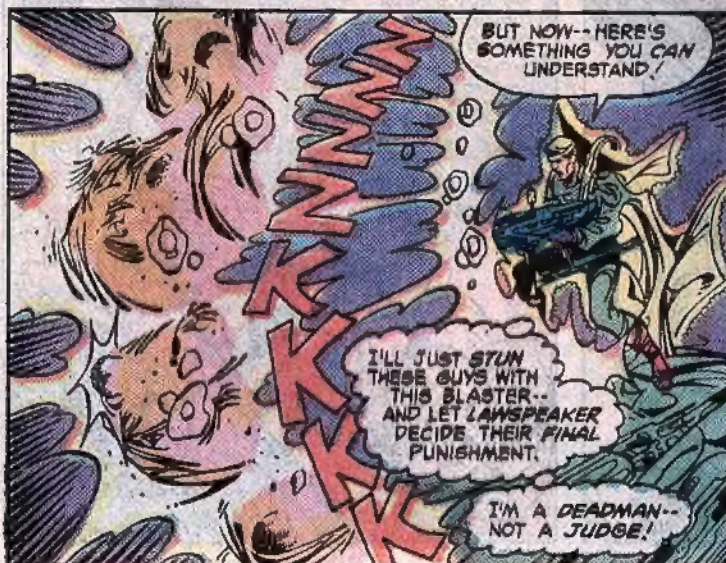
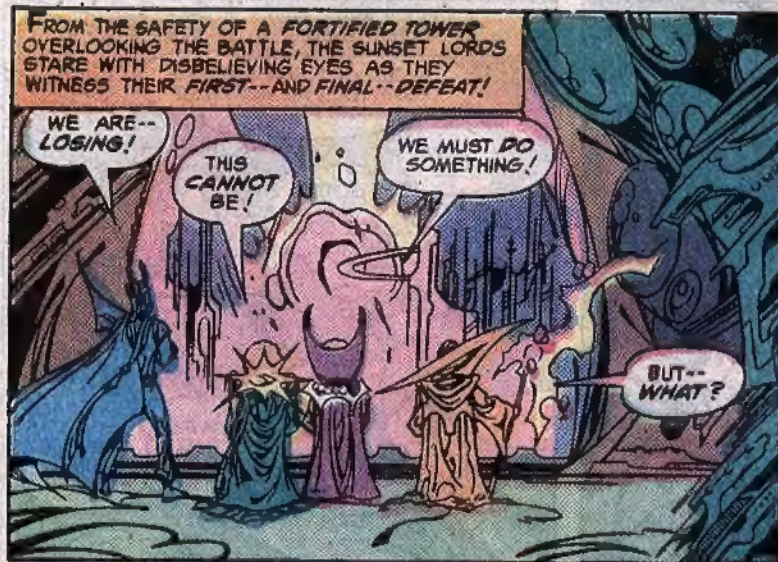
MY SKY-RIDERS HAVE YOU SURROUNDED! YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO--

--SURRENDER!









SOON AFTER THE BATTLE'S END, THE VICTORS FROM TWO ERAS GATHER AT THE TIME SPHERE FOR A FINAL PARTING...



THANK YOU, MY FRIENDS-- FOR EVERYTHING! THOUGH YOU LEAVE NOW FOR YOUR OWN TIME-- YOU SHALL BE SORELY MISSED IN MINE!

YOU, TOO-- DEADMAN!

OBOY--! HE'S USING TELEPATHY TO TALK TO ME! THE SOONER I'M OUT OF HERE--THE BETTER I'LL LIKE IT!

GOTTA STONAWAY IN GREENIE FOR THE TRIP!



FAREWELL, CHALLENGERS. AND, SAFE JOURNEY!

GOOD BYE, DEADMAN.

COME ON, ROCKY-- WE'RE GOING HOME.

HOME, ACE? WHERE'S THAT?

GOOD RIDDANCE, CHUM!

COME ON, GREENIE--LET'S MOVE THOSE BIG FEET FASTER!



THE TIME SPHERE STARTS TO VIBRATE AND INSTANTLY-- IT IS GONE...

IT SADDENS ME TO SEE SUCH BRAVE ONES LEAVE US!

YES, LUCAS--THEIR LEAVING IS OUR TIME'S LOSS.



WE MUST MAKE SURE OUR CHILDREN ARE TOLD OF THEIR DEEDS. OUR CHILDREN WILL BE PROUD TO KNOW THEY LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE ONCE DWELLED THE CHALLENGERS!

PERHAPS, SUCH KNOWLEDGE CAN HELP US RETAIN THE PEACE AND FREEDOM WE FOUGHT SO HARD TO ACHIEVE.

AH, MICA-- THERE IS SO MUCH WE MUST DO. WE HAVE A WORLD TO REBUILD!

PERHAPS THIS TIME MANKIND WILL BUILD IT RIGHT.



AND WHAT OF THE TIME-TRAVELERS WEDGED TOGETHER IN THE TINY SPHERE...?

MAYBE I WILL TELL JUNE HOW I FEEL...YEAH, WHY NOT? JUST AS SOON AS WE'RE...HOME!

HOPE PROF'S ALL RIGHT.

I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG WITH ROCKY...?



BACK, BACK THROUGH THE AGES HURLS THE TIME SPHERE...

...RETURNING ITS SEVEN HUMAN PASSENGERS, THE SWAMP-CREATURE AND A GHOST, HOME--TO 1978!

AND UPON RETURNING, THE CHALLENGERS ARE ONCE AGAIN REUNITED! RIP HUNTER AND CREW, THE SWAMP THING AND DEADMAN BID FAREWELL TO THE DEATH-CHEATERS AND LEAVE--TO PURSUE THEIR INDIVIDUAL FATES--EACH GOING HIS SEPARATE WAY--INTO THE PAGES OF HISTORY...

END.

ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

L-938

EDITOR'S NOTE: As announced some issues ago, we didn't really get a likeable response to this page's previous title, **CHALLENGER MOUNTAIN MAIL ROOM**. For that reason, we instigated a contest for one of you readers to come up with a better name. As you see by the top of the page, **ADDRESS: UNKNOWN** was the winner! And who sent in that winning title? And what is his mystery prize that we have promised to announce, but never have?

His name is **ANDY PROCTOR** and he resides at 11328 Joffre St., Bel-Air, California 90049. His prize is a page of original **CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN** artwork graciously donated by artists Keith Giffin and John Ceiaro. Congratulations, Andy, and thanks to all of you who sent in suggestions.

Although we didn't promise any second prizes, we'd like to award one to **PATRICK GILLILAN**, Rt. #1, Box 100, Warner, Oklahoma 74469 for his "From Beyond the Unknown" suggestion. For those of you who don't know, **FROM BEYOND THE UNKNOWN** was the title of a science-fiction comic we published in the late 1960's that reprinted adventures from **MYSTERY IN SPACE** and **STRANGE ADVENTURES**. We appreciated the humor of the suggestion and hereby award Pat the DC subscription of his choice.

Now perhaps some of you are wondering why we chose "Address: Unknown" as the winner of our contest. In truth, the answer is a sad one. Usually the marking "Address: Unknown" is reserved for correspondence whose destination is unknown. By the time you read this, the address of the **CHALLENGERS** will indeed be "unknown," for this is the last issue of the **CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN**.

But don't despair. **RED, ROCKY, ACE, PROF, JUNE, SWAMP THING** and **DEADMAN** will still pop up occasionally within the pages of other DC Comics. They are not dead, but they have lost their home. Hopefully, they shall not be vagrants for long. So, before we say good-bye, let's hear what some of you had to say about these few issues of the new **CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN**:

Dear Editor,

A few comments on **CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN #84**. First, the cover: definitely the best one since the revival of the **Challengers**. I've always dug Rich Buckler cover anyway. Good coloring.

Second, the interior art. Keith Giffin impresses with his second issue on our heroes and depicts **Swamp Thing** quite well. The scenes in Philadelphia were excellent and gave a very photographic effect.

Third, Gerry's fast-paced story. Left biting my nails for two months wondering about the fate of Prof, I found it a bit anti-climatic (but nonetheless a relief) that **Deadman** cured Prof so easily. This problem had to have been solved and quickly, for to drag it out through another issue would have been a bad mistake. The **Challengers** should be at top fighting force as all times. Page seven's confrontation between Ace and Clayburne was just what I needed to make my day. Hopefully, Clayburne will not return to these pages. His character always created unnecessary problems.

Overall, Mr. Conway came through with another winning script. The inclusion of **Duncan Pramble** (albeit brief) was another plot-twister that for once did not lead to another clash with a villain, to recently seen. Mr. Conway realized this and brought things to a neat end.

Fourth, the **Swamp Thing** a regular face in this mag? A good idea, if not mishandled. Overexposure of Doc Holland would definitely be unwise. After all, it IS the **Challengers'** mag. In a supporting role and only when necessary, the **Swamp Thing** could be a big asset to the comic.

Fifth, I would just like to say that, as a long time fan of the **Death Cheaters**, I am very pleased by the overall treatment of the team.

Sixth, keep up the good work and see what can be done to make the **Challengers** a monthly mag.

Rip Hunter next issue? I can't wait...

Jon Hall

110 Virginia Ave.
Campbell, CA 95008

Dear Editor,

With the inclusion of **Deadman** and the conclusion of the **Perdition** sequence, **CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN #84** finally made me a regular buyer of this magazine. In fifteen years of comic reading, I don't remember ever buying an issue previous to 82, wherein the **Challengers** first visit **Perdition**.

Why? The few times I glanced through an issue during their first run I disliked whoever the artist then was, but I think the main reason was the whole "borrowed time" concept, which I just can't swallow. These characters have been appearing in comics for almost twenty years, and you still expect us to believe they're living on borrowed time? I can accept that they lead extremely dangerous lives, and as a result live minute to minute, but the phrase "borrowed time" has a fatalistic air about it that just doesn't agree with the picture of the **Challengers** presented in these three issues, for example, struggling desperately for Prof's life. From the emphasis you place on the idea that they are living on borrowed time, you might expect them to simply shrug and say, "Oh well, Prof's time finally ran out. Do you think we can hire Doc Magnus as a replacement?"

Although I applaud the increased continuity, I think you'd do best to keep the **Challenger's** guest-stars limited to non-powered types, though I don't mean to imply they should never meet any super-heroes. Perhaps **Batman** could enlist their help in his fight against **Kobra**. But I am eagerly looking forward to the return of my old friend **Rip Hunter**. The idea of having the **Challengers** run to see them meet the **Blackhawks** and the **Sea Devils** (remember them?), or maybe even finish off that dangling plotline from the **Secret Six**. Admittedly, the last is a little out of the **Challengers** line. But what I'd really like to see is the **Challengers** tackle **Eclipse**!

Keep up the good work, all of you. You've got one convert here.

Mike Blake
89 South Bend St.
Pawtucket, RI 02860

SUPERMAN MARRIES LOIS LANE!

WEDDING OF THE CENTURY TAKES PLACE

(DC COMICS, NEW YORK)—It's not a hoax! It's not a dream! It's not an imaginary story! It's the Special 40th Anniversary Issue of **ACTION COMICS** featuring the marriage of the century!

We've cleared five pages of ads from this landmark issue to give you an extra-length 22-page story DC fans have been clamoring for since the Man of Steel met Lois Lane in **ACTION COMICS** #1—and this time they tie the knot for good!

But what sinister super-villain's scheme threatens to destroy their happiness almost before it's begun? And wait 'til you see the incredible change that comes over Clark Kent!

Don't miss this collector's issue edited by Julius Schwartz, written by Cary Bates, pencilled by Curt Swan and inked by Joe Giella when "Superman Takes A Wife" in **ACTION COMICS** #484, on sale the week of March 27th!



FIVE SHOCKERS IN HAUNTED HOUSE SPECIAL

(DC COMICS, NEW YORK)—This month's 48-page **SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE SPECIAL** is a spooktacular collection of thrilling shockers that will make your toes curl!

It features everything from ghosts to vampires to demons to a killer with unusual tastes—not to mention a tribe of fanatic cavemen!

Jim Starlin's dynamic cover makes this 48-page/60¢ once-in-a-lifetime treat a newsstand standout when **THE SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE SPECIAL** goes on sale the week of March 27th!



"Blind Frenzy" (art by Pat Broderick); and "The Haunted Planet" (art by Jerry Grandenetti).

WONDER WOMAN #244—The Amazing Amazon leaps into action to prevent "The Terrorist Dooms" by Jack C. Harris, Jose Delbo and Vince Colletta.

AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW:
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN #87/**GHOSTS** #65/**GREEN LANTERN** #105/**SECRET SOCIETY OF SUPER-VILLAINS** #15/**SGT. ROCK** #317/**SUPERBOY & THE LEGION** #240/**SUPER FRIENDS** #12/**WORLD'S FINEST** #251



Q: Can I send in designs for new costume for your heroes?—Jerry Gaudet. **A:** Every so often, one of our editors runs a "New Look" page in our magazines. Watch for word of one and then start designing!

Q: Everyone knows that **Batman** premiered in **DETECTIVE COMICS** #27, but what features were headlined before the Caped Crusader?—Tom Morey.

A: Early issues of **TEC** starred **Speed Saunders**, **Cosmo**—**Phantom of Disguise**, **Dr. Fu-Manchu**, the **Crimson Avenger**, and a pair of stripes by **Superman**-creators Jerry Siegel, and Joe Shuster: **Slim Bradley** and **Spy**!

Q: When did **ADVENTURE COMICS** #247 (the first appearance of the Legion) go on sale?—Larry Haines. **A:** The issue is cover-dated April, 1958 and hit the stands the last week in February, 1958.

Q: Why were **Tattooed Man** and **Dr. Polaris** wearing their original costumes in **DC SUPER-STARS** #10?—Tim Clark. **A:** The answer is promised for a forth-coming issue of **SECRET SOCIETY OF SUPER-VILLAINS**!

Q: Will **Batman** ever meet his Golden Age counterpart?—Charles David Haskell. **A:** The original **Batman** has hung up his cape and cowl forever but everything's possible in comics!

DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF MARCH 27th
STAR HUNTERS #5—Donovan Flint and company face "A Death of Tiny Voices" in this David Micheline/Rich Buckler/Bob Layton tale.

STEEL #3—A tense battle for the Indestructible Man in "Enter: Sledgehammer" by Gerry Conway, Don Heck, and Joe Giella. Plus: "Night Without Heroes" by Conway and Juan Ortiz.

UNKNOWN SOLDIER #216—Back to Washington for "Taps At Arlington" by Bob Haney, Dick Ayers and Romeo Tanghal. Plus: "Silk Umbrella of Death" by Robert Kanigher, Alex Saviuk, Duffy Vohland and Frank Giaccio.

WARLORD #13—Travis Morgan meets "The Hunter" and Skartaris will never be the same in this Mike Grell extravaganza.

WITCHING HOUR #81—A trio of thrillers by George Kashdan: "Two Faces of Evil" (art by Tary Henson);